

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR CVIS, UR

SUBJ: CSCE AND MULTIPLE VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS

1. P&C COUNSELOR BENSON AND PRESS ATTACHE CALLAWAY CALLED ON MFA/PRESS CHIEF SOFINSKIY AUGUST 13 IN CALLAWAY'S INTRODUCTORY CALL. ALSO PRESENT WAS NEW MFA/PRESS CHIEF FOR WEST EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA VLADIMIR MOROZOV.

2. AFTER INITIAL PLEASANTRIES ABOUT CALLAWAY'S RESPONSIBILITIES, MOROZOV REMARKED THAT JOURNALISTS WERE ALWAYS QUOTE CAUSING PROBLEMS, UNQUOTE TO WHICH BENSON REPLIED WITH SHORT DISQUISITION ON THE ACCEPTED ROLE OF NEWSMEN IN US SOCIETY. SOFINSKIY INTERJECTED THAT HIS OFFICE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE US PRESS ATTACHE TO SOLVE JOURNALISTS' PROBLEMS, BUT SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THERE WERE NONE. CALLAWAY NOTED THAT US CORRESPONDENTS WERE CONSTANTLY TALKING ABOUT THEIR DESIRE TO HAVE MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS, AND THAT THE USG, CITING THE CSCE, HAD AGAIN PRESENTED A NOTE TO THE MFA JUST LAST WEEK PROPOSING THE RECIPROCAL ISSUANCE OF SUCH VISAS TO CORRESPONDENTS RESIDING IN THE OTHER COUNTRY. BENSON NOTED THAT EARLIER EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ALONG

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THESE LINES, SPECIFICALLY NOTES IN 1973 AND 1975,

HAD NOT BEEN ANSWERED. SOFINSKIY INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT THE US HAD ALREADY VIOLATED THE CSCE ACT BY NOT PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING IT. BENSON COUNTERED THAT (1) THE USG WILL PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE THE ACT, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO; (2) THE USG CANNOT DICTATE WHAT IS PUBLISHED IN THE PUBLIC PRESS; (3) THIS QUESTION IS NOT GERMANE TO THE REQUEST THAT JOURNALISTS BE GRANTED MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS.

3. IN FURTHER CONVERSATION, IT WAS REITERATED TO SOFINSKIY AND MOROZOV THAT THE USG IS IN NO WAY IGNORING THE CSCE ACT; THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THE USG IS MOST INTERESTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE ACT'S PROVISIONS; FURTHER, A POSITIVE SOVIET RESPONSE ON THE QUESTION OF JOURNALISTS' VISAS WOULD BE SEEN AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN BOTH BY THE US CORRESPONDENTS AND BY THE USG.
STOESSEL

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